

Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Commercial Data Bases

1. In talking to one of your former colleagues today, [redacted] he mentioned the wealth of information available in commercial data bases. We are all well aware of the commercial data bases that one may subscribe to but [redacted] spoke of the extensive data bases that are maintained in-house for in-house use only by various companies. In his case they are feeding political, economic as well as technical capabilities of various countries into this data base. Maybe we could [redacted]

2. [redacted] also made reference to a number of companies around the U.S. who are, in essence, intelligence organizations on various countries who sell their reports and recommendations to customers. While I didn't ask him for the litany of names, that too may be something we should try and tap into. For example, [redacted] doing an assessment on the [redacted] to see what events may transpire over the next ten years which will impact on a decision to invest another \$100 million in a plant there. [redacted] looking at the technical capabilities and work force for accomplishing their job as well as the economics involved, i.e., cost/benefit trade-off. [redacted] is having some heavy thinkers look at whether or not the political scene will permit such a company operation--if so with what restrictions or caveats. He is not trying to predict what will happen [redacted] but whether the political structure, whatever it is, will tolerate a viable foreign investment.

3. Some food for thought.

[redacted]  
[redacted] ohn N. McMahon

cc Executive Director  
DDO